THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The total amount spent on the development of handicrafts during the Seventh Plan period, from 1985-86 to 1988-89 (up to January, 1989) is Rs. 3872.10 lakhs.

(b) The major steps taken by the Government in the handicrafts sector are:—

(i) imparting of training in various crafts.
(ii) technical assistance in the shape of design development.
(iii) financial & marketing assistance.
(iv) supply of raw materials.
(v) popularisation of handicrafts through exhibitions & publicity.
(vi) promotion of exports in handicrafts, through Councils, one for the handicrafts and the other for Carpets.
(vii) preservation of traditional crafts in National Handicrafts and Handloom Museum at New Delhi.
(viii) encouragement of the artisans through National Awards and pension to craft-persons in old age and infirmity.

(c) and (d) the following incentives are given to the rural artisans:—

(i) training in various crafts to the artisans.
(ii) supply of design inputs.
(iii) financial and marketing assistance.
(iv) supply of raw materials through Government Depots at reasonable prices.
(v) Presidential Awards to outstanding Master crafts persons.

Erosion of coastal area

263. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Sea coasts particularly near the major sea ports being affected by sea erosion;

(b) the percentage of coastal area facing sea erosion; and

(c) the details of centrally sponsored scheme to check sea erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) These are (i) Paradeep Port in Orissa, (ii) Vishakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh, (iii) Madras Port in Tamil Nadu; and (iv) New Mangalore Port in Karnataka.

(b) Nearly 85% of the coastline in Kerala and 26% in Karnataka is reported to be affected by sea erosion. The problem in other coastal States is not appreciable and occurs in isolated patches.

(c) There is no Centrally sponsored scheme to check sea erosion, but some assistance has been extended to Kerala.

Review of Export Credit Guarantee and Insurance for Promotion of Exports

264. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has recommended for a thorough review of export credit guarantee and insurance for promotion of exports; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what are their other recommendations;

(b) whether Government will reconsider the scope of and support to the ECGC in respect of export credit insurance; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the alternatives available with Government to finance and operate a State owned Institution like ECGC and whether Government are satisfied with the present set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has stated in a proposal submitted to Government that there is need to

review and reconsider the scope of, and support to ECGC in respect of export credit insurance. The performance of ECGC was reviewed recently and it was found to be satisfactory. In order to provide financial support to the corporation for underwriting export credit insurance, Government had increased the paid-up capital of the Corporation from Rs. 5.0 crores to Rs. 25.0 crores last year. Budget provision has already been made to provide a further sum of Rs. 25.0 crores to the corporation during the current financial year.

Abid Hussain Committee on Textile Policy

265. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Abid Hussain Committee on the implementation of the textile policy has submitted its report; if so what are its major recommendations, and if the report has not so far been submitted, when it will submit its report;

(b) whether the report would form the basis of the taxtile sector in the Eighth Plan; if so, whether this is included in the tarms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the State Governments, have been consulted and their views sought by the Committee; if so, which are the States which have represented and what are their main submissions;

(d) whether Government are contemplating some interim steps to ease the textile crisis, particularly in view of a large number of unemployed textile workers in Ahmadabad and Bombay; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Gujarat Government has proposad that textile workers Rehabilitation Fund scheme benefit be given to the workers when the provisional liquidator is appointed by the High Court; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) The term of the Abid Hussain Committee constituted to review the implementation of the Textile Policy, 1985 has been extended up to 30-6-89.

(c) The composition of the Abid Hussain Committee is balanced and broad based and it is not considered necessary to given representation to the State Governments. However, the Committee is free to take the views of any organisation/individual if considered necessary.

(d) The Government is seized of the specific problems of the textile industry and remedial measures are taken on as and when necessary.

(e) Yes, Sir. The proposal could not be agreed to. The scheme becomes applicable only after the passing of the winding up order by the Court (When the Provisional Liquidator becomes Official Liquidator).

Foreign Exchange Reserves

266. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the country's total foreign exchange reserves as against NRI deposits in Non-Resident External Accounts and FCNR accounts and whether Government propose to continue with the present schemes;

(b) what has been the subscription of NRI bonds and whether Government have planned the productive investment of such money; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how much of the NRI funds will be invested in new industries that require long gestation period for returns and whether Government propose to regulate